

Improving Opportunities for Citizen Participation in the Permits Branch

Citizen participation is an important part in the air permits review process. Citizens can provide valuable input that will result in better permits, and the Permits Branch is constantly working to improve citizens' ability to participate.

Online Permit Tracking Information

One way to keep informed of permit activity is via the permits information website, *Air Permits Online*. From this user-friendly website, citizens can view and download air permit documents and related information. Permit information has been available online for several years on the U.S. EPA website, but the OAQ site now features several improvements including data not previously available online. The site shows local library locations where hard copies of the permit applications can be viewed. The site also provides public hearing details, and information on permit applications that have been received, but have not reached public notice status.

The site offers users a wide variety of options for viewing permit information. Users can choose to view a list of all permits, sorted by name of source or by county; view specific types of permits; or view information on the most up-to-date permit activity. The site features a graphic tour and online support to aid navigation. To use the site, go to <http://www.in.gov/idem/air/permits/Air-Permits-Online/index.html>

Notification list

The Permits Branch has always kept a list of people who want to be notified about permit activity in their area. Recently, the Branch has stepped up efforts to make people aware of this mailing list, by publicizing it on the web and on handouts at public hearings. You can request to be notified of permit actions related to either a specific source, or for all permit activity in a certain county. To be put on the mailing list, call the OAQ at 1-800-451-6027, press 0 and ask for ext. 3-0178, then ask for the Permits Administration Section or use the [online form](#).

Public participation guide

As part of IDEM's Environmental Justice efforts, IDEM has developed a ["Citizens' Guide to Public Participation."](#) This "plain English" guide can help you understand how IDEM enforces state and federal environmental laws, and explains how you can participate when IDEM makes or amends environmental rules, and makes decisions regarding issuing permits or conducting cleanup actions. This guide can also point you to other government agencies that may have authority regarding activities that are not regulated by IDEM. A condensed, 12-page version of the full guide, ["Citizens' Guide to Public Participation -- Highlights"](#) is also available.